

CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA FOR JULY, 1913.

DISTRICT NO. 12, COLUMBIA VALLEY.

EDWARD A. BEALS, District Editor.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

The distinguishing features of the month were heavy local rains during the last decade in eastern Oregon and southern Idaho and the wide ranges in temperature throughout the district. The heavy local rains came between the first and second cutting of alfalfa and therefore on the whole were beneficial. They also were a great help in supplementing the supply of irrigation water, and no shortage occurred, although fears had been entertained that later on there would not be enough. As opposed to the freezing temperatures that prevailed in the plateau sections about the middle of the month temperatures of 100° or more were of frequent occurrence in the low valleys between the 20th and 25th.

Owing to frequent showers in western Oregon and western Washington a large amount of hay could not be properly cured and many fields became overripe. The hay crop for the foregoing reasons did not turn out as well as expected. The weather on the whole was favorable for the grain harvest and the yields so far are satisfactory. The many thunderstorms during the third decade started numerous forest fires, but the heavy rains accompanying these storms put out most of the fires shortly after they had started, and there were not as many burning at the end of the month as usual.

There were no noteworthy delays in traffic or interruptions in construction work.

TEMPERATURE.

July, 1913, was notable for its extremes of heat and cold. Maximum temperatures of 100° , or above, were recorded at numerous stations on various dates, but principally on the 20th; these high temperatures were not confined to any one section but were general, except in western Montana, Wyoming, and along the coast of Washington and Oregon. In contradistinction to these high temperatures minimum temperatures below freezing occurred in many sections on several dates, the lowest, 22° , having been recorded on the 14th at two stations in central Idaho. The month averaged cooler than usual, being particularly so in western Montana, Idaho, southeastern Washington, and northeastern and southern Oregon, where the temperatures ranged from 0.3° to 8.3° below normal.

The mean temperature of the district, as determined from the records of 304 stations, was 65.1° , or 1° below normal. The highest temperature, 110° , was recorded on the 23d at Hanford, in southern Washington, at an elevation of 385 feet, and the lowest, 22° , occurred at Loon Creek and New Meadows, contiguous stations in Idaho, at elevations of 6,000 and 3,950 feet, respectively. The greatest daily range in temperature was 63° , at

Moore, in southern Idaho, at an elevation of 5,700 feet, and at Yonna, in southern Oregon, at 4,146 feet elevation. The highest monthly mean, 76.1° , was also recorded at Hanford, Wash., and the lowest monthly mean, 51.6° , at Snake River, Wyo., at an altitude of 7,000 feet.

The following table shows for comparative purposes the mean temperature and departure from normal for the States of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, and those portions of Montana and Wyoming in district No. 12 for the month of July during the last five years.

Years.	Oregon.		Washington.		Idaho.		Montana.		Wyoming.	
	Mean.	De- part- ure.	Mean.	De- part- ure.	Mean.	De- part- ure.	Mean.	De- part- ure.	Mean.	De- part- ure.
1909.....	62.5	-2.3	63.9	-2.6	66.2	-1.0	61.5	-2.4	57.8	-1.4
1910.....	66.5	+0.6	66.7	-0.1	71.0	+2.2	65.0	+1.7	61.3	+2.0
1911.....	68.4	+2.1	67.9	+0.9	67.5	-1.0	62.7	-1.7	56.8	-1.9
1912.....	64.7	-1.3	65.5	-0.7	65.2	-3.6	62.0	-3.7	55.7	-2.0
1913.....	65.1	-0.5	66.2	-0.4	65.7	-2.2	62.2	-2.8	56.0	-1.8

PRECIPITATION.

The precipitation for July was normal or slightly below in the territory adjacent to the Columbia River in Washington and Oregon, except near the coast, in extreme western Montana and along the Snake River in the first-named State; elsewhere the rainfall was above the average for the month, being unusually heavy in southeastern Idaho and southern and eastern Oregon, in some instances partaking of the nature of cloudbursts, at which time the precipitation in 24 hours was the greatest of record at several stations in these two States. Where these heavy downpours occurred on steep watersheds the floods caused considerable damage. In Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho the rainfall was fairly well distributed throughout the month; in Washington the rainfall occurred mostly during the first half of the month, with only scattered showers in the last decade at a number of stations in the eastern portion of the State, there being a period from the 15th to the 20th, inclusive, without precipitation; in Oregon the precipitation was mostly confined to the 3d and from the 20th to the 25th of the month, with occasional local rains during the remainder of the month.

The average precipitation for the district, as determined from the records of 399 stations, was 1.22 inches, which is 0.41 of an inch more than the normal. The greatest 24-hour rainfall, 3.13 inches, occurred at Vernon, Idaho, on the 24th, at an elevation of 5,050 feet. The greatest monthly amount, 6.46 inches, was recorded at Snake River, in Yellowstone Park, Wyo. No rain fell at Condon, and Grass Valley, Oreg., and at several stations in the State of Washington.

The average monthly precipitation with departure from normal for the month of July during the last five years is shown in the following table for the States of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, and for those portions of Montana and Wyoming in District No. 12.

Years.	Oregon.		Washington.		Idaho.		Montana.		Wyoming.	
	Mean.	De-pature.	Mean.	De-pature.	Mean.	De-pature.	Mean.	De-pature.	Mean.	De-pature.
1909.....	1.20	+0.76	1.49	+0.88	1.24	+0.88	3.08	+1.92	1.40	+0.99
1910.....	0.17	-0.46	0.13	-0.60	0.37	-0.34	0.59	-0.66	1.02	+0.20
1911.....	0.08	-0.51	0.26	-0.46	0.20	-0.32	0.57	-0.68	0.35	-0.28
1912.....	0.65	+0.07	1.05	+0.22	1.15	+0.88	1.83	+0.51	2.90	+1.16
1913.....	1.19	+0.62	0.64	+0.09	1.92	+1.15	1.16	-0.17	3.16	+1.00

THE RIVERS.

Heavy local rains from the 22d to the 25th on the tributaries of the lower Snake River caused a small rise which was felt in the lower Columbia a few days later. These rains washed a large amount of soil into the streams and for several days the water was so charged with silt as to seriously interfere with salmon fishing.

The following table shows the highest and lowest stages, the dates on which they occurred, and the mean and normal stages at the river stations in this district for July:

Station	River.	High-est.	Date.	Low-est.	Date.	Mean.	Norm-al.
Albany.....	Williamette.....	5.9	5th.....	2.0	31st.....	3.4	2.1
Salem.....	do.....	4.7	5th.....	0.9	31st.....	2.5	1.3
Wilsonville.....	do.....	7.0	1st.....	2.5	31st.....	4.5	3.2
Oregon City.....	do.....	4.4	1st.....	1.2	18th.....	2.8	.....
Portland.....	do.....	20.6	1st.....	9.3	28th.....	14.3	13.3
Jefferson.....	Santiam.....	3.5	1st.....	1.4	29th.....	2.3	1.5
McMinnville.....	Yamhill.....	1.0	1st.....	0.2	30th.....	0.5	0.6
Tazaderro.....	Clackamas.....	2.8	1st.....	1.5	30th.....	2.0	.....
Kamiah.....	Clearwater.....	8.8	2d.....	4.5	30th.....	6.0	.....
Weiser.....	Snake.....	7.5	5th.....	2.5	23d.....	4.9	4.7
Lewiston.....	do.....	9.3	7th.....	2.4	24th.....	5.7	5.5
Eriparia.....	do.....	9.4	1st.....	3.8	26th.....	6.3	5.6
Bonners Ferry.....	Kootenai.....	20.6	1st.....	10.5	30th.....	14.7	14.9
Newport.....	Pend d'Oreille.....	18.7	1st.....	6.6	31st.....	12.1	8.8
Northport.....	Columbia.....	20.3	1st.....	13.2	31st.....	20.0	20.4
Wenatchee.....	do.....	42.2	1st.....	24.0	31st.....	31.1	29.9
Umatilla.....	do.....	19.3	1st.....	11.6	31st.....	15.0	14.8
The Dalles.....	do.....	33.5	1st.....	17.5	31st.....	24.1	24.4
Cascade Locks.....	do.....	25.9	1st.....	13.0	27th.....	18.1	17.5
Vancouver.....	do.....	20.9	1st.....	9.6	28th.....	14.7	14.0

¹ The stage was observed on more than one date.

MISCELLANEOUS PHENOMENA.

Thunderstorms, occasionally with hail, were quite prevalent during the last decade in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon. Two fatalities from lightning were reported from southwestern Oregon and one from northeastern Washington; lightning was also the cause of several forest fires in the first named State which were subsequently extinguished by the heavy rains.

The prevailing winds were mostly northwesterly, with maximum velocities reported as follows: North Head, 54 miles from the south, and Tatoosh Island, 60 miles from the southwest, both occurring on the 6th. A wind storm partaking somewhat of the nature of a tornado occurred on the same date in the northeast suburbs of the city of Seattle, Wash., and while scarcely over a minute in duration caused considerable damage to buildings, trees and shrubbery. Dust storms were reported from stations in eastern Washington on the 6th which were injurious to standing grain.

Some frosts were noted during the second decade at stations in Montana and Oregon, and freezing temperatures were of general occurrence in the elevated portions of Idaho on the 14th which were slightly damaging to growing crops.

THE ANNUAL RISE OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER

[Portland, Oreg., Aug. 11, 1913.]

By THOMAS R. REED, Assistant Observer.

Weather conditions in the Columbia River watershed during the winter and spring of 1913 were favorable for a large run-off later in the year. That a larger flow of water than usual would occur in the early summer was foreseen by officials in the Weather Bureau and the Dominion meteorological service, and their estimates in this connection were published in the March issue of the Snowfall Bulletin. In order that the public might be informed as to conditions of snowfall in British Columbia, a supplement to the regular snowfall bulletin was issued on April 22, containing tabular data and a short written summary furnished by the Dominion meteorological service.

Taking the wet season as a whole the snowfall was not large as compared with normal amounts, but what there was did not undergo premature melting, for the low temperatures of the spring months conserved what had fallen until summer was almost at hand. When the first pronounced warm spell of any duration came there was a large accumulated deposit ready to swell the tributaries of the Columbia River. The following table, compiled from the Monthly Weather Review, shows the temperature and precipitation over the Northern Plateau during the snowfall season:

Mean temperature and precipitation over the Northern Plateau.

	Mean temperature.	Departure.	Mean precipitation.	Departure.
December, 1912.....	•	•	Inches.	Inches.
January, 1913.....	31.2	-0.1	0.35	-0.8
February, 1913.....	25.2	-2.7	1.94	+0.4
March, 1913.....	25.8	-5.4	0.88	-0.7
April, 1913.....	37.5	-2.8	1.51	0.0
	49.2	+0.3	1.14	-0.2

The annual high water in the Columbia finds its origin in two principal sources. The more important of these is the upper Columbia itself, augmented by the Kootenai and Pend d'Oreille tributaries. The other source is the Snake River, rising in Yellowstone Park and augmented near its lower end by the Salmon and Clearwater Rivers. The upper Snake River carried about the usual amount of water this year, but below the entrance of the Salmon River it reached the highest stages recorded since 1899.

Of the tributaries referred to as augmenting the upper Columbia, the Kootenai began to rise first and continued to increase rapidly reaching a maximum early in June. The Pend d'Oreille rose more slowly reaching a maximum 10 or 15 days later. Both streams fell gradually and united in maintaining a high stage in the lower Columbia for a long time. The Kootenai influenced the Columbia more than the Pend d'Oreille. It is said that the stages reached this year in that stream exceeded any on record, and this is not unlikely because the conditions of sub-normal temperature described as prevalent over the whole Northwest during the spring were accentuated in the Kootenai country, while the winter's snowfall there, unlike that on the Northern Plateau, was in excess of the average.

As usual the Snake River was carrying its maximum volume earlier than the Columbia and had begun to recede at the time the Columbia was showing its most rapid increase. In this way disastrous stages in the lower Columbia were avoided, but notwithstanding this the stages in the lower river were the highest since 1903. The 15-foot stage at Portland, which is rated as

TABLE 1.—*Climatological data for July, 1913. District No. 12—Continued.*

Stations.	Counties.	Elevation, feet.	Length of record, years.	Temperature, in degrees Fahrenheit.						Precipitation, in inches.						Number of rainy days, 0.01 inch or more.	Number of clear days.	Number of partly cloudy days.	Number of cloudy days.	Prevailing wind direc- tion.	Observers
				Mean.	Departure from the normal.	Highest.	Date.	Lowest.	Date.	Greatest daily range.	Total.	Departure from the normal.	Greatest in 24 hours.	Total snowfall, unmelted.							
<i>Oregon—Continued.</i>																					
Redmond.....	Crook.....	2,900	2	.....	.....	93	20	.....	.....	0.36	.....	0.18	0	3	24	7	0	nw.	T. G. Stevens.	
Richland.....	Baker.....	2,350	12	.....	67.0	100	31	43	13†	49	0.87	.....	0.54	0	5	17	6	8	n.	L. G. Morgan.
Riddle.....	Douglas.....	715	.....	63.0*	94*	31	35*	2	49*	0.39	.....	0.32	0	2	22*	7*	1*	nw.	P. A. Wilson.	
Rio Hermoso.....	Crook.....	2,110	2	63.0*	94*	103	20	35	14	59	4.60	+ 4.31	1.85	0	6	14	7	10	w.	C. T. Hubbard.	
Riverside.....	Malheur.....	3,200	14	71.3	+ 2.3	90	3	27	2	54	0.34	.....	0.23	0	2	30	0	1	nw.	Mrs. Leah Fairman.
Robbyville.....	Crook.....	4,000	.....	59.4	.....	90	3	47	18	43	0.61	+ 0.29	0.52	0	5	10	18	3	n.	Loren B. Robb.
Roseburg.....	Douglas.....	510	35	87.5	+ 1.4	99	31	42	15	40	0.29	— 0.19	0.23	0	2	22	0	9	nw.	U. S. Weather Bureau.	
Salem.....	Marion.....	120	23	66.0	— 0.4	95	18	42	15	40	0.29	— 0.19	0.23	0	2	22	0	9	nw.	M. P. Baldwin.	
Seneca.....	Grant.....	4,300	20	60.4†	87†	23	29	2	46†	1.87†	.....	0.85†	0	6†	.....	.....	.....	.....	sw.	E. J. Southworth.
Silver Lake.....	Lake.....	4,700	16	61.2	— 3.4	94	20	29	17	45	1.84	+ 1.34	1.10	0	4	18	12	1	sw.	G. W. Marvin.	
Siakiyou.....	Jackson.....	4,115	5	60.0	.....	88	31	35	2	41	3.23	.....	2.22	0	4	9	15	7	n.e.	U. S. Weather Bureau.
Sparta.....	Baker.....	4,150	22	67.2	— 0.3	92	8†	33	15	45	1.15	+ 0.70	0.70	0	3	24	4	3	n.	J. A. Wright.	
Stafford.....	Clackamas.....	400	17	65.0	— 1.3	95	18†	45	14†	40	0.52	— 0.33	0.18	0	2	22	0	9	sw.	John P. Gage.	
Tablerock.....	Jackson.....	1,215	.....	67.1	.....	101	18	37	15	56	2.03	.....	0.53	0	4	18	11	2	nw.	Mrs. J. C. Pendleton.
Talent.....	do.....	1,800	.....	68.1	.....	98	18	42	2	44	2.89	.....	1.60	0	5	20	3	8	nw.	T. F. Smith.
The Dalles.....	Wasco.....	112	39	73.6	+ 2.3	102	19	50	2	43	0.09	— 0.07	0.09	0	1	18	3	10	w.	Judd S. Fish.	
Tillamook.....	.....	80.6	6	98*	18	33b	11	54	1.17	.....	0.35	0	12	13	6	12	nw.	Will Spalding.		
Toledo.....	Lincoln.....	75	23	58.8	— 2.3	96	18	35	30	48	0.95	+ 0.39	0.50	0	4	22	7	2	.....	C. B. Crosno.
Umatilla.....	Umatilla.....	340	25	74.8	— 0.6	105	23†	47	14	48	0.14	— 0.04	0.14	0	1	19	3	9	sw.	Mrs. H. T. Duncan.	
Union.....	Union.....	2,787	2	63.0	.....	91	6	32	14	45	0.98	.....	0.43	0	7	18	9	4	nw.	Robert Withycombe
Vale.....	Malheur.....	2,242	21	72.0†	+ 1.6	99†	6	40d	17	52d	1.97	+ 1.69	0.87	0	5	21d	5d	1d	ne.	H. P. Osborne.	
Van.....	Harmey.....	3,508	2	.....	.....	96	31	42	2†	43	1.40	.....	1.15	0	3	10	14	7	.....	George Howe.
Vida.....	Lane.....	1,100	2	64.4	.....	96	31	42	2†	43	1.40	.....	1.15	0	3	10	14	7	w.	W. H. Pendell.
Waldo.....	Josephine.....	1,900	1	65.6†	97†	18†	40†	2	44†	2.24	.....	0.92	0	4	15	11	5	n.	M. M. Lewis.	
Wallace Orchard.....	Polk.....	170	4	64.8	.....	95	18	45	2†	48	0.29	.....	0.20	0	2	2	26	3	.....	Charles A. Park.
Wallowa.....	Wallowa.....	2,935	10	59.4*	— 5.3	83*	7†	30*	14	40	0.58	— 0.20	0.29	0	5	11*	12*	7*	nw.	L. J. Coverstone.	
Warmic.....	Wasco.....	1,500	12	66.2	.....	98	19	37	15	50	0.10	.....	0.10	0	1	9	17	5	w.	A. J. Swift.
Warmsprings.....	Crook.....	1,500	11	69.6	— 0.4	100	20†	38	1	45	0.10	— 0.42	0.07	0	3	17	10	4	w.	George W. Robbins.	
Wasco.....	Sherman.....	1,263	69.2	.....	.....	101	20	43	2†	47	0.14	.....	0.14	0	1	26	4	1	w.	J. R. Howell.
Weston.....	Umatilla.....	1,300	21	71.2	+ 2.3	102	20	42	13	49	0.11	— 0.56	0.11	0	1	20	9	2	sw.	M. A. Baker.	
Whitaker.....	Crook.....	4,250	.....	58.4	.....	90	8	23	13	54	1.23	.....	0.56	0	6	18	12	1	nw.	Frank Percival.
Williams.....	Josephine.....	1,368	21	66.3	0	96	18†	37	2	48	2.53	+ 2.35	1.12	0	4	16*	7*	7	n.	Francis J. Le Roy.	
Yonna.....	Klamath.....	4,146	6	61.1	.....	98	19	30	.3	63	1.66	.....	0.89	0	4	15	6	10	w.	Ward Rueck.

*, b, *, etc., indicate, respectively, 1, 2, 3, etc., days missing from the record.

Data are from standard instruments not supplied by the Weather Bureau.

Also on other dates.

T. Precipitation is less than 0.01 inch rain or melted snow.

TABLE 3.—*Maximum and minimum temperatures at selected stations for July, 1913. District No. 12—Continued.*

Date.	Washington.				Oregon.																			
	Tatoosh Island.		Walla Walla.		Ashland.		Baker.		Eugene.		Port Orford.		Hermiston.		Marshfield.		Portland.		Prineville.		Roseburg.		The Dalles.	
	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.
1.	60	51	68	58	68	51	56	43	69	50	65	50	82	56	66	52	68	42	68	51	76	56	74	52
2.	62	52	74	53	71	46	66	38	70	46	65	47	84	50	68	43	67	51	71	33	70	49	78	50
3.	63	52	70	53	68	50	63	44	68	55	60	74	55	64	51	68	53	67	47	70	52	75	56	74
4.	64	54	81	60	78	53	72	51	71	55	65	64	83	54	70	56	72	59	80	44	76	57	76	55
5.	63	54	88	60	85	49	84	50	80	50	67	54	84	53	74	51	82	59	89	42	79	52	90	54
6.	60	54	96	64	82	54	91	54	73	51	63	64	95	55	68	57	74	59	90	51	79	58	90	62
7.	64	53	84	56	82	49	81	48	74	51	69	60	88	49	70	49	75	51	85	57	80	57	85	60
8.	64	54	97	60	87	50	91	55	83	48	62	46	98	45	71	45	84	52	97	40	86	52	94	54
9.	59	54	82	64	81	48	75	53	80	49	63	50	89	60	74	50	70	56	95	58	82	53	93	59
10.	62	55	80	58	81	48	72	50	73	56	68	55	85	49	71	55	68	57	98	40	76	58	61	67
11.	62	52	81	54	84	45	73	44	77	45	72	63	85	53	73	45	76	51	85	35	81	50	84	54
12.	59	50	75	57	78	46	71	45	72	50	66	56	83	50	67	56	69	54	79	36	70	50	81	59
13.	60	50	71	51	72	47	62	40	72	48	67	50	78	49	68	47	69	52	69	37	71	48	74	51
14.	63	52	79	51	72	43	70	36	72	48	68	50	83	44	68	50	70	52	70	35	73	52	79	49
15.	61	53	80	58	78	41	71	45	75	46	69	51	84	56	70	45	70	52	77	33	76	50	80	55
16.	60	50	80	52	79	45	77	48	76	46	68	51	90	45	72	45	76	53	84	37	79	47	87	53
17.	61	51	91	61	85	46	80	50	80	48	70	52	94	49	67	47	81	54	90	40	83	49	89	57
18.	63	51	97	60	95	53	85	48	91	46	67	49	100	49	85	46	92	61	95	41	98	52	93	52
19.	64	51	94	65	89	52	87	52	88	65	73	46	96	54	76	49	94	66	95	44	84	60	102	59
20.	73	52	106	73	92	52	90	58	90	70	72	50	105	57	72	53	93	71	94	47	86	68	100	68
21.	67	50	96	75	92	53	80	62	92	65	65	53	100	69	74	59	90	70	95	60	95	68	100	67
22.	64	53	99	73	90	60	85	61	89	63	72	54	100	70	69	56	90	66	94	61	93	62	101	66
23.	57	52	101	70	74	60	85	63	83	58	63	51	104	67	69	58	85	62	96	56	77	60	100	66
24.	58	54	99	72	69	60	79	61	74	58	59	56	102	70	67	56	84	62	89	53	69	64	93	67
25.	59	53	89	68	70	59	72	58	70	61	65	52	99	67	65	58	73	63	85	53	70	62	89	66
26.	63	53	88	63	76	58	78	50	74	56	68	56	91	62	69	55	73	59	85	41	74	57	93	62
27.	58	52	92	64	81	52	82	56	83	46	69	50	95	62	70	50	81	57	89	42	84	52	86	54
28.	57	51	84	66	81	51	80	52	79	50	72	54	85	60	70	54	73	55	86	41	82	54	86	56
29.	61	51	78	58	77	50	68	47	76	50	68	55	83	57	69	56	75	53	78	47	80	56	83	58
30.	61	52	87	53	86	51	76	42	84	49	78	54	91	45	76	44	84	57	89	38	90	50	91	56
31.	68	51	97	62	92	55	86	45	90	47	64	53	99	46	72	48	98	63	98	42	99	56	99	91
Mins....	61.9	52.2	86.8	61.0	80.5	50.9	77.0	50.0	78.3	52.1	67.0	51.9	90.6	55.1	70.5	51.1	78.2	57.5	85.7	43.1	80.0	55.0	88.0	58.4
																								55.04

*, **, etc., indicate respectively 1, 2, 3, etc., days missing from the record.